THE FOLLOWING ARE THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF ANNEXES TO THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT (ARTICLE 34):

Amended Sheets (Pages 24-29a)

AMENDED CLAIMS

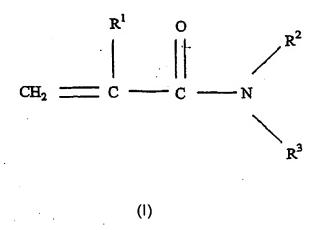
- 1. A process for the production of anionic water-in-water polymeric dispersions comprising at least one finely dispersed, water-soluble and/or water-swellable polymer A and a continuous aqueous phase, which phase contains an aliquot of at least 5 % by weight, based on the total dispersion, of a polymeric dispersing agent B in which monomers that are distributed in this aqueous phase are subjected to free-radical polymerization and, on completion of said polymerization, the reaction mixture is subsequently diluted with the residual amount of said dispersing agent B.
- 2. A process as defined in claim 2, characterized in that said polymeric dispersing agent B comprises at least one functional group selected from the group consisting of ether groups, carboxyl groups, sulfone groups, sulfate ester groups, amino groups, amido groups, imido groups, tert-amino groups, and/or quaternary ammonium groups.
- 3. A process as defined in claim 3, characterized in that said polymeric dispersing agent B is a cellulose derivative, polyvinyl acetate, starch, a starch derivative, dextran, polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyvinylpyridine, polyethylene imine, polyamine, polyvinylimidazole, polyvinylsuccinimide, polyvinyl-2-methylsuccinimide, polyvinyl-1,3-oxazolid-2-one, polyvinyl-2-methylimidazoline, and/or the respective copolymers thereof with maleic acid, maleic anhydride, fumaric acid, itaconic acid, itaconic anhydride, (meth)acrylic acid, salts and/or esters of (meth)acrylic acid and/or a (meth)acrylamide compound.
- 4. A process as defined in any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that said dispersing agent B is an anionic polymer composed of at least 30 % by weight of anionic monomers.
- 5. A process as defined in any one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that said dispersing agent B has an average molecular weight M_w of not more than 250,000 g/mol.

- 6. A process as defined in any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the aliquot of said dispersing agent B in the aqueous phase is equal to from 60 to 95 % by weight of the total weight of said dispersing agent B.
- 7. A process as defined in any one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that at least one water-soluble polymeric dispersing agent B is used together with at least one water-soluble polyfunctional alcohol and/or its reaction product with fatty amines.
- 8. A process as defined in claim 7, characterized in that the water-soluble polyfunctional alcohols used are polyalkylene glycols, block copolymers of propylene/ethylene oxide having molecular weights of from 50 to 50 000, low-molecular weight polyfunctional alcohols and/or their reaction products with fatty amines containing from 6 to 22 carbons in the alkyl or alkylene radical.
- 9. A process as defined in any one of claims 7 to 8, characterized in that said polymeric dispersing agent B is used together with at least one polyfunctional alcohol in amounts of from 5 to 50 % by weight, based on the total dispersion.
- 10. A process as defined in any one of claims 7 to 9, characterized in that said the ratio, by weight, of said polymeric dispersing agent B to said polyfunctional alcohol is in the range of from 1.00 : 0.01 to 1.00 : 0.5.
- 10. A process as defined in any one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that polymer A is composed of anionic, non-ionic, amphiphilic, and/or cationic monomers.
- 11. A process as defined in any one of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that the anionic monomers used are
 - a.) olefinically unsaturated carboxylic acids, carboxylic anhydrides, and water-soluble alkali metal salts, alkaline earth metal salts, and ammonium salts thereof,
 - b.) olefinically unsaturated sulfonic acids and/or said water-soluble alkali metal salts, alkaline earth metal salts, and ammonium salts thereof,
 - c.) olefinically unsaturated phosphonic acids and/or said water-soluble alkali metal salts, alkaline earth metal salts, and ammonium salts

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thereof, and

- d.) sulfomethylated and/or phosphonomethylated acrylamides and/or said water-soluble alkali metal salts, alkaline earth metal salts, and ammonium salts thereof.
- 12. A process as defined in any one of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that the non-ionic monomers used are monomers of the general formula (I)



in which

R¹ stands for a hydrogen radical or a methyl radical, and
R² and R³ independently stand for hydrogen, or an alkyl or hydroxyalkyl radical containing from1 to 5 carbon atoms, and
R² or R³ stands for an OH group,

13. A process as defined in any one of claims 1 to 12, characterized in that the amphiphilic monomers used are monomers of the general formula (II)

(II)

wherein Z₁ stands for O, NH, NR₄ wherein R₄ denotes alkyl containing from 1 to 4 carbons,

R₁ stands for hydrogen or a methyl radical,

R₄ stands for alkene containing from 1 to 6 carbons,

R₅ and R₆ independently stand for an alkyl group containing from 1 to 6

carbons.

R₇ stands for an alkyl radical, an aryl radical, and/or an aralkyl

radical containing from 8 to 32 carbons and

z stands for halogen, pseudo-halogen, SO₄CH₃ or acetate,

or monomers of the general formula (III)

$$CH_2 = C - C - Z_1 - (R_9 - O)_n - R_8$$

(III)

wherein

Z₁ stands for O, NH, or NR₄, wherein R₄ denotes alkyl containing from 1 to 4 carbons,

R₁ stands for hydrogen or a methyl radical,

R₃ stands for hydrogen, an alkyl radical, an aryl radical, and/or an

 R_9

n

aralkyl radical containing from 8 to 32 carbons, stands for an alkylene radical containing from 2 to 6 carbons, and stands for an integer from 1 to 50.

14. A process as defined in any one of claims 1 to 13, characterized in that the cationic monomers used are compounds of the general formula (IV)

$$CH_2 = \begin{array}{c} R_1 \\ | \\ C \\ 0 \end{array}$$

$$(IV)$$

wherein

R₁ stands for hydrogen or a methyl radical,

Z₁ stands for O, NH or NR₄ where R₄ stands for an alkyl radical containing 1 to 4 carbon atoms,

Y stands for one of the groups

wherein

 Y_0 and Y_1 stand for an alkylene radical or hydroxyalkylene radical containing 2 to 6 carbon atoms,

Y₂, Y₃, Y₄, Y₅, Y₆, Y₇, independently stand for an alkyl radical containing 1 to 6

carbon atoms, and Z stands for halogen, acetate, or SO₄CH₃.

- 15. A process as defined in any one of claims 1 to 14, characterized in that the monomeric composition to be used for the production of said polymer A consists of anionic monomers, to an extent of from 0 to 100 % by weight, based on the total weight of monomers.
- 16. A process as defined in any one of claims 1 to 15, characterized in that polymer A has a M_w of >1,0 x 10^6 g/mol.
- 17. A process as defined in any one of claims 1 to 16, characterized in that polymerization is carried out in the presence of a salt in an amount of not more than 3.0 % by weight, based on the total dispersion.
- 18. A process as defined in any one of claims 1 to 17, characterized in that the reaction mixture is cooled following polymerization and is subsequently diluted with the residual amount of said dispersing agent B.
- 19. A process as defined in any one of claims 1 to 18, characterized in that the reaction mixture is cooled to ≤ 35 °C.
- 20. A process as defined in any one of claims 1 to 16, characterized in that the reaction mixture is subsequently diluted with from 5 to 50 % of said dispersing agent B by weight, based on the total weight thereof.
- 21. A water-in-water polymer dispersion whenever obtained as defined in one or more of claims 1 to 20.
- 22. The use of the water-in-water polymer dispersion as defined in claim 21 for solid/liquid separation in aqueous systems.
- 23. The use of the water-in-water polymeric dispersions as defined in claim 21 as an auxiliary in papermaking.

24. The use of the water-in-water polymer dispersion as defined in claim 21 in retention agent systems in papermaking.